



Termite Treatments: Full, Partial or Spot

Because we are in the “heat” of termites I want to continue termite 101 education! Let’s discuss Full, Partial and Spot subterranean termite treatments differences.

The most important thing I want you to remember is that when you order a termite treatment the complete house is guaranteed for twelve months- even if the termites come back in a completely different part of the house. That guarantee is from the day of the treatment through twelve months. Some home warranty companies do not honor the twelve month period, only the contract period. Example: Let’s say you had a termite treatment in April and the contract expires in June- if you do not renew - the company would not honor the twelve month guarantee- **Nations does.**

As Always . . . we continue termite coverage in the Renewal period and treat Conducive Conditions FREE when the termite treatment is being performed.

Five years ago the Structural Pest Control Board deleted the “Full Treatment” category from the existing homes disclosure document.

Please allow me to explain:

FULL TREATMENT: The homeowner can only receive a “full treatment” before the house is built. Effective pre-construction treatment for subterranean termite prevention requires the establishment of complete vertical and horizontal approved physical or chemical barriers between wood in the structure and the termite colonies in the soil or a “horizontal chemical barrier” that is created by using a low pressure spray after the final grading is complete and prior to pouring the slab, footings or baiting systems.

A partial or spot treatment is anything less than the full treatment as described above. Therefore, a treatment done to an existing home will always be a partial or spot treatment.

The licensed pest technician is bound by the instructions on the chemical label that they use. The Structural Pest Control Board considers these instructions as **law**. Termiticide labels have specific directions about the product’s use. Pest Control Companies must follow these directions and Structural Pest Control Board regulations including 599.3 (a) and (b). Please go the web site located at www.spcb.state.tx.us for more information.

PARTIAL TREATMENT: This technique allows a wide variety of treatment strategies but is more involved than a spot treatment. Example: Treatment of some or all of the perimeter, bath traps, expansion joints, stress cracks and bait location. **Pier and Beam:** Generally defined as the treatment of the outer perimeter including porches, patios and treatment of the attached garage. In the crawl space, treatment would include any soil to structure contacts as well as removal of any wood debris on the ground. **Slab construction:** Generally defined as treatment of the perimeter and all known slab penetrations as well as any known expansion joints or stress cracks.

SPOT TREATMENT: Any treatment which concerns a limited defined area less than ten (10) linear or square feet that is intended to protect a specific location or “spot.” Often there are adjacent areas susceptible to termite infestations which are not treated.

CONDUCTIVE CONDITIONS: Fences or decks that are attached to the main foundation of the home.

NATIONS termite contractors always do a Partial Treatment and use the chemical TERMIDOR. The instructions, on their label, for a treatment are: Re-treatment of the structure is prohibited unless there is clean evidence that re-infestation has occurred. **Therefore, the home has to have active termite infestation before treatment can be performed.**

Also, because of the toxicity of the chemicals and the environmental hazards the home cannot be treated when precipitation (rain) is occurring or the water is frozen or in any conditions where run-off or movement from the treatment area are likely to occur.

TERMIDOR is lethal to termites when they ingest it. Second, and unlike all other termiticides, it is lethal by contact. This means that termites don't even have to ingest it to die from its effect.

Termites are social insects. They feed each other primarily by passing food from mouth to mouth and they groom each other. They contact each other as they forage for food. The chemical takes advantage of this social behavior. This combination of ingestion, contact and “transfer effect” routinely provides termite control.